

## Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 VO-05  
INSE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
L-03 DODE-00 SY-05 FBIE-00 PRS-01 CA-01 /066 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:LROSENBLATT:MM  
APPROVED BY HA/ORM:JLCARLIN  
HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN  
HA/ORM:HBCUSHING  
EA:RA:FC0ENNETT, JR.(DRAFT)  
EA/TIMBS:SULLIVAN (DRAFT)  
D: L. PASCOE (SUBSTANCE)

-----079101 052341Z /72

O 052307Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE TEMPORARY ASYLUM CENTER FOR INDOCHINESE  
REFUGEES -

REF: A. GENEVA 0055 B. GENEVA 12811 (76) C. GENEVA 12782  
(76) D. SINGAPORE 5718 (76)

HONG KONG PASS DERIAN AND OAKLEY  
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1. DEPT. PLEASED THAT UNHCR (MACE) HAS SENT LETTER CITED  
REFTEL A TO SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE. THIS LETTER  
SHOULD PROMPT A SINGAPORE REPLY WHICH WILL CLARIFY WHETHER  
PRIME MINISTER LEE WILL ACCEPT UNHCR GUARANTEES OF 'BEST  
EFFORTS'. DEPT. HOPES PRIME MINISTER'S REACTION WILL HAVE  
CRYSTALLIZED BY THE TIME OF DERIAN'S STOP IN SINGAPORE.

2. PRIME MINISTER LEE'S CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY LED TO AN OFFER BY LEE FOR SINGAPORE TO ESTABLISH A CENTER (POSSIBLY ON AN ISLAND) FOR THE TEMPORARY ASYLUM OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ARRIVING IN SINGAPORE. THE OFFER INCLUDED CERTAIN PROVISOS AMONG WHICH IS A GUARANTEE BY THE UNHCR OF THE ONWARD RESETTLEMENT OF THESE REFUGEES.

3. IN DEPARTMENT'S VIEW, LEE IS PERFECTLY AWARE THAT THE UNHCR HAS NO POWER TO IMPOSE REFUGEES ON THIRD COUNTRIES. OBVIOUSLY, THE USG AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED WITH THIS PROBLEM WILL ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO FULLY HONOR THE UNHCR GUARANTEE AND WE BELIEVE THAT THIS CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY DONE.

4. TO UNDERSTAND LEE'S OFFER AS ONE TO ACCEPT REFUGEES ONLY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A UNHCR GUARANTEE FULLY BACKED BY ADVANCE THIRD COUNTRY OFFERS AT THE TIME REFUGEES ARE ACCEPTED, HOWEVER, IS TO UNDERSTAND HIM AS SIMPLY RESTATING HIS PREVIOUS POSITION OF DEMANDING NATIONAL GUARANTEES BEFORE REFUGEES CAN BE LANDED. THIS DOES NOT ACCORD WITH THE TENOR OR SUBSTANCE OF THIS DISCUSSION AND WE WOULD NOT WISH THE GOS TO SUPPOSE WE UNDERSTOOD LEE'S COMMITMENT IN THIS FASHION.

5. OBVIOUSLY, GOS DOES NOT WANT TO SHOULDER EITHER EXPENSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SES OR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OF THESE REFUGEES. WE UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT THIS POSITION AND THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE GOS AND BELIEVE THEY CAN BE SATISFIED. (THE PREVIOUS DEMAND BY THE GOS FOR ABSOLUTE GUARANTEES PRIOR TO THE LANDING OF THE REFUGEES, HOWEVER, POSED LEGAL AND POLICY PROBLEMS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OVERCOME).

6. FOR SINGAPORE:

THUS, WE VIEW THE NEW POSITION OF GOS AS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN THE PROBLEM OF SHIPMASTERS PASSING BY REFUGEES IN DISTRESS AT SEA AND WISH TO PURSUE IT VIGOROUSLY. WHILE WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS UNHCR TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS MATTER, AMBASSADOR SHOULD ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR IN ANY CONVERSATIONS WITH GOS ON THIS SUBJECT THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF CONCERN AND INTEREST TO THE USG.

7. FOR HONG KONG: PLEASE INSURE THAT DERIAN AND OAKLEY HAVE COPY REFTEL A. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE002788  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LROSENBLATT:MM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780009-0388  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780195/aaaadbyn.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 82a301e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN HA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3821947  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SINGAPORE TEMPORARY ASYLUM CENTER FOR INDOCHINESE  
**TAGS:** SREF  
**To:** GENEVA SINGAPORE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/82a301e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014